

CHAL - 0248

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21 July 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Special Assistant to the Director for
Planning and Development

SUBJECT: Processing of [REDACTED] Pilots for CHALICE [REDACTED]

REFERENCES: A. Memorandum for SA/PD/DCI, dtd 15 July 1958
(CHAL -0240)
B. Memorandum for SA/PD/DCI, dtd 14 July 1958
(CHAL -0237)
C. Memorandum for DD/DPS/DCI and D/Admin, DPS/DCI,
dtd 21 July 1958 (CHAL -0173)

1. I have discussed fully reference C with [REDACTED] in
the light of your understandable concern over apparent delays in
[REDACTED] Pilot Training. He has given me certain facts which may make
the situation a bit more intelligible:

a. Originally, it was planned to have the remaining three
[REDACTED] pilots report to [REDACTED] on the Monday following completion of
their flight training at [REDACTED] i.e., 11 August. However, because
these three officers are formally unwitting of any CIA involvement in
the U-2 Program, and because they are technically not supposed to
know the ultimate mission for which they are being trained, and
because they should know of CIA support before reporting to [REDACTED]
it was decided that they should be briefed prior to receiving E & E
training.

b. [REDACTED] discussed this matter at length with [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] at the time of his visit to the United States, and was informed
that it was the position of the [REDACTED] that the participating
pilots should be briefed on the CHALICE [REDACTED] mission by very senior
principals, possibly [REDACTED] himself, and it was necessary
and desirable that such briefing take place in [REDACTED] rather than
elsewhere. A proposal that Project CHALICE officials conduct the
briefing was rejected by [REDACTED]. Accordingly, it was then planned
to send the three [REDACTED] pilots to Europe milair on 11 August, with a
projected return from [REDACTED] set for 15 August. Project CHALICE
personnel then made milair reservations both ways accordingly, and
the E & E training date was slipped to the week of 18 August.

c. On reporting to CHALICE headquarters, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] carried a message for [REDACTED] to the effect that [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], both eligible for promotion, should
plan to take their promotion exams either in Washington or [REDACTED] on

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19th and 20th August. It seems that these two dates are inviolate as far as the [] is concerned, and there is no other alternate date set for those who fall within the area of eligibility. As a result, this requirement bit into the week set aside for E & E training, and the only alternative was to slip this training still another week, to that of 25th August with a 29 August completion date. It was then decided that since the [] pilots were to be in [] the week previous to the promotion exam dates that it would probably be best to let them remain in [] following their briefing to take the exams there, after which they would be returned to the ZI milair. Reservations are now in effect returning them to Washington from [] on the Blue Plate on 22 August.

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2. In the light of the above facts, the time apparently lost between 8 August and 29 August appears to be properly accounted for, and does not seem to be wasted, given the basic premise that the [] shall conduct the briefings of their own people and that the promotion exams are a distinct requirement. As far as the question of 30 days leave following 29 August is concerned, appearing as paragraph 2.b.(2) of reference B., this appears to have been an assumption rather than a fact, based partly on a concept of "leave-following-training" as being normal in the USAF, and partly on the possibility that the three remaining [] might not have been deployed overseas until joined by their leader, [], whose training does not commence until 11 August at the earliest. This latter point has not been definitively settled, according to [] who reports that [] alluded to the possibility that the [] might not want the junior officers integrated into Detachment B until their senior officer was through his training.

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3. As it now stands then, we shall plan to complete the [] pilots at [] on 29 August, following which date they will proceed directly to [] where they will report in at [] for the purpose of maintaining flight proficiency in the U-2 and T-33 until such time as it is decided that they will deploy overseas; in the instance you cite that date might be as early as 15 September, assuming [] concurrence.

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4. It might be noted that we have not yet received nominations from the [] for the final [] pilot to be trained, for the Flight Surgeon or Aviation Physiologist Officer to be ZI trained, nor have we received the identities of the balance of the [] unit. As a matter of fact, we have nothing to the effect that the [] has given consideration to the CHALICE/[] Project at the highest level, or that preliminary political blessing has been sought. As you are aware, we have repeatedly invited expeditious consideration of these points as well as the names of the individuals who will ultimately

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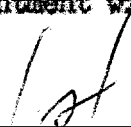
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make up the [REDACTED] unit. It may be that the current international situation has diverted the attention of [REDACTED] and others instrumental in decision making, and I am hopeful that the establishment of a communications link with the [REDACTED] forecast as being possible within a week or so, will serve to expedite some of these matters in suspense. Thus, if all goes smoothly, it should be possible to field a minimum [REDACTED] capability, though without a leader, by 15 September at [REDACTED] providing the [REDACTED] Government gives its approval to the idea. [REDACTED] states that he is awaiting an advisory message from [REDACTED] on the question of an early appointment with [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]
Colonel, USAF
Deputy Director, DPS/DCI

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